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Committee on Conferences
Substantive session of 2006

Agenda and programme of work for 2006

The agenda for the substantive session of 2006 of the Committee on Conferences was approved by the Committee at its organizational session, on 11 May 2006, on the basis of a draft agenda proposed by the Secretariat in document A/AC.172/2006/L.1. The approved agenda for the substantive session of 2006 is accordingly issued in the present document, together with annotations regarding the documentation, for the Committee's consideration in 2006. Information concerning the reform of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, the utilization of conference services and other matters, regularly reported on under the agenda item entitled "Pattern of conferences", will be included in one comprehensive report.

Agenda for the substantive session of 2006

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
2. Calendar of conferences and meetings:
   (a) Adoption of the draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings for 2007;
   (b) Requests for exceptions to section I, paragraph 7, of General Assembly resolution 40/243.
3. Integrated global management/outcome of the work of the task forces.
4. Meetings management/improved utilization of conference-servicing resources and facilities:
   (a) Intersessional departures for 2006 and related matters;
   (b) Meeting statistics of United Nations organs, and consultations with/letters to bodies concerning utilization of the conference services available to them;
   (c) Provision of interpretation services to meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States;

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(d) Improved utilization of conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi;

(e) Improved utilization of the conference centre at the Economic Commission for Africa.

5. Documentation and publication-related matters:

(a) Submission, availability and distribution of documentation;

(b) Provision of summary records.

6. Translation and interpretation-related matters.

7. Organization of work.

8. Adoption of the report.

Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

2. Calendar of conferences and meetings

(a) Adoption of the draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings for 2007

A draft revised calendar for 2007 will be submitted by the Secretariat to the Committee on Conferences at its substantive session of 2006.

The Committee will submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session the draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings for 2007.

(b) Requests for exceptions to section I, paragraph 7, of General Assembly resolution 40/243

In paragraph 15 of its resolution 47/202 A, the General Assembly demanded that all subsidiary organs of the Assembly comply with the provisions of section I, paragraph 7, of its resolution 40/243, in which it had decided that no subsidiary organ of the Assembly would meet at United Nations Headquarters during a regular session of the Assembly unless explicitly authorized by the Assembly.

In accordance with the procedure established by the Committee at its 1986 session and reaffirmed at its 1992 session, chairpersons of subsidiary organs of the General Assembly that wish to meet at Headquarters during the main part of the Assembly submit their requests to the Chairperson of the Committee.

3. Integrated global management/outcome of the work of the task forces

In section II.B, paragraph 3, of its resolution 60/236 B, the General Assembly noted the ongoing efforts towards the attainment of integrated global management, recognized the upgrading of the information technology capacity at the United Nations Office at Nairobi and requested the Secretary-General to keep the Assembly apprised of progress made in that regard.

In paragraph 6, the General Assembly noted the ongoing efforts towards the establishment of the integrated global management system and requested the

Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its sixty-first session on the outcome of the work of the task forces, through the Committee on Conferences.

4. Meetings Management/Improved utilization of conference-servicing resources and facilities

(a) Intersessional departures for 2006 and related matters

A compilation of such matters will be provided for inclusion in the report of the Committee.

(b) Meeting statistics of United Nations organs, and consultations with/letters to bodies concerning utilization of the conference services available to them

In section II.A, paragraph 9, of its resolution 60/236 B, the General Assembly welcomed the steps taken by those bodies that had adjusted their programmes of work in order to achieve the optimum utilization of conference-servicing resources and requested the Committee on Conferences to continue consultations with the secretariats and bureaux of bodies that underutilized their conference-servicing resources, in line with what was requested by paragraph 2 of section II.A of its resolution 59/265.

(c) Provision of interpretation services to meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States

In section II.A, paragraph 4, of its resolution 60/236 B, the General Assembly recognized the importance of the meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States for the smooth functioning of the sessions of intergovernmental bodies and requested the Secretary-General to ensure that, as far as possible, all requests for conference services for the meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States were met. In paragraph 5, it noted that the percentage of meetings provided with interpretation services in the period from May 2004 to April 2005 continued to decrease despite the fact that the number of meetings requesting the provision of interpretation had noticeably decreased.

In paragraph 6, the General Assembly recalled that meetings held by regional and other major groupings of Member States were provided with interpretation services on an ad hoc basis, in accordance with established practice. In paragraph 7, the Assembly urged intergovernmental bodies to take into account and make provision for those meetings in their programmes of work. In paragraph 8, it noted that improvements in utilization might entail a reduction in the availability of conference services for meetings of regional groups and requested the Secretary-General to explore innovative ways to address that problem and to report to the Assembly through the Committee on Conferences.

(d) Improved utilization of conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi

In section II.A, paragraph 10, of its resolution 60/236 B, the General Assembly recalled its several resolutions, including resolution 59/265, section II.A, paragraph 8, and reaffirmed that, in conformity with the headquarters rule, all meetings of Nairobi-based United Nations bodies should take place in Nairobi, except as otherwise authorized by the Assembly or the Committee on Conferences

acting on its behalf, and requested the Secretary-General to report on the subject to the Assembly at its sixty-first session through the Committee on Conferences.

(e) Improved utilization of the conference centre at the Economic Commission for Africa

In section II.A, paragraph 12, of its resolution 60/236 B, the General Assembly welcomed the efforts undertaken so far to increase utilization of the conference facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa, in particular the introduction by the Commission of an integrated system for the management of its conferences and the conducting of a fact-finding mission to identify best practices at similar conference centres within the United Nations system. In paragraph 13, it requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to ensure that the conference centre established and developed linkages with other centres and bodies and to report thereon to the Assembly at its sixty-first session through the Committee on Conferences.

In paragraph 14, the General Assembly noted that the strict implementation of the headquarters' minimum operating security standards had compelled the Economic Commission for Africa to restrict the utilization of its conference centre to organizations of the United Nations family, foreign representatives accredited to Addis Ababa, the African Union, recognized international non-governmental organizations and the Government of Ethiopia. In paragraph 15, the General Assembly invited the Secretary-General to explore means to increase the utilization of the conference centre of the Economic Commission for Africa, bearing in mind the headquarters' minimum operating security standards, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its sixty-first session, through the Committee on Conferences.

5. Documentation and publication-related matters

(a) Submission, availability and distribution of documentation

In section III, paragraph 2, of its resolution 60/236 B, the General Assembly noted with concern the continued high level of late submissions of documentation by author departments, which, in turn, negatively impacted the functioning of intergovernmental bodies, and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly, at its sixty-first session, through the Committee on Conferences, on impediments, if any, to achieving full compliance with the 10-week and 6-week rules for the issuance of pre-session documents, including, where appropriate, proposed measures to address such impediments.

In paragraph 6, the General Assembly welcomed the efforts of the interdepartmental task force on documentation in addressing the problem of late issuance of documentation and requested the Secretary-General to develop a clear accountability mechanism within the Secretariat for the submission, processing and issuance of documentation and to submit a detailed report thereon to the Committee on Conferences for its further consideration and analysis, in order to provide concrete recommendations to the Assembly at its sixty-first session.

(b) Provision of summary records

In section III, paragraphs 11 and 12 of its resolution 60/236 B, the General Assembly noted some improvement in the issuance of verbatim and summary

records, while recognizing that delay in their issuance still existed, and requested the Secretary-General to continue to take appropriate measures to ameliorate the delay in the issuance of verbatim and summary records, with a view to issuing them in a timely manner. In paragraph 13, the Assembly recalled section II.B, paragraph 14, of its resolution 59/265 and reiterated its request to the Secretary-General to further elaborate on all options, including those set out in paragraphs 59 to 63 of his report (A/59/172), in accordance with legislative mandates, and to report on their practical and financial implications to the Assembly at its sixty-first session through the Committee on Conferences. In paragraph 14, the Assembly recalled section II.B, paragraph 13, of its resolution 59/265, took note of paragraphs 57 to 59 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/60/93 and Corr.1) and decided to revert to the issue in the context of its consideration of the report referred to in section III, paragraph 13, of resolution 60/236 B.

6. Translation and interpretation-related matters

In section IV, paragraph 5, of its resolution 60/236 B, the General Assembly reiterated its request to the Secretary-General to address the question of the appropriate level of self-revision that is consistent with quality in all official languages and to report thereon to the Assembly at its sixty-first session.

In section II.B, paragraph 9, the General Assembly recalled section II.B, paragraph 10, of its resolution 59/265 and, in that regard, looked forward to the submission of the proposal for a comprehensive methodology for performance measurement and management from a full-system perspective.

7. Organization of work

In section II.A, paragraph 20, of its resolution 57/283 B, the General Assembly encouraged the Committee on Conferences to keep under continued review the procedures for the participation of observers in the work of the Committee.

8. Adoption of the report